GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

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THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

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General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

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PILES OF CORK-OAK BARK NEATLY TRIMMED, READY FOR BALING: CORSICA

(See Bulletin No. 4)

HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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Jubaland: Where Africa's Map Has Changed

HAVE YOU marked up a change in the map of Africa since school closed last spring?

Over on the east coast of Africa some British red must be eliminated. The British flag in Jubaland has been replaced by the Italian. This territory now becomes a part of Italian Somaliland stretching up to the entrance to the Red Sea.

News out of Jubaland a few weeks before the transfer of sovereignty which told of fighting between Somali tribes over water-holes, indicates that Italy is not adding an entirely peaceful realm to her colonial possession.

No Happy Medium in Jubaland Climate

Americans who know something of fights between Indians and cattlemen in the arid regions of our "cow country" in the old days—often around priceless water-holes—may fancy they can construct a picture of the continual cattle wars of Jubaland. The American westerner set down in this African cattle region, however, would find the differences so striking that probably he would lose sight altogether of the few similarities.

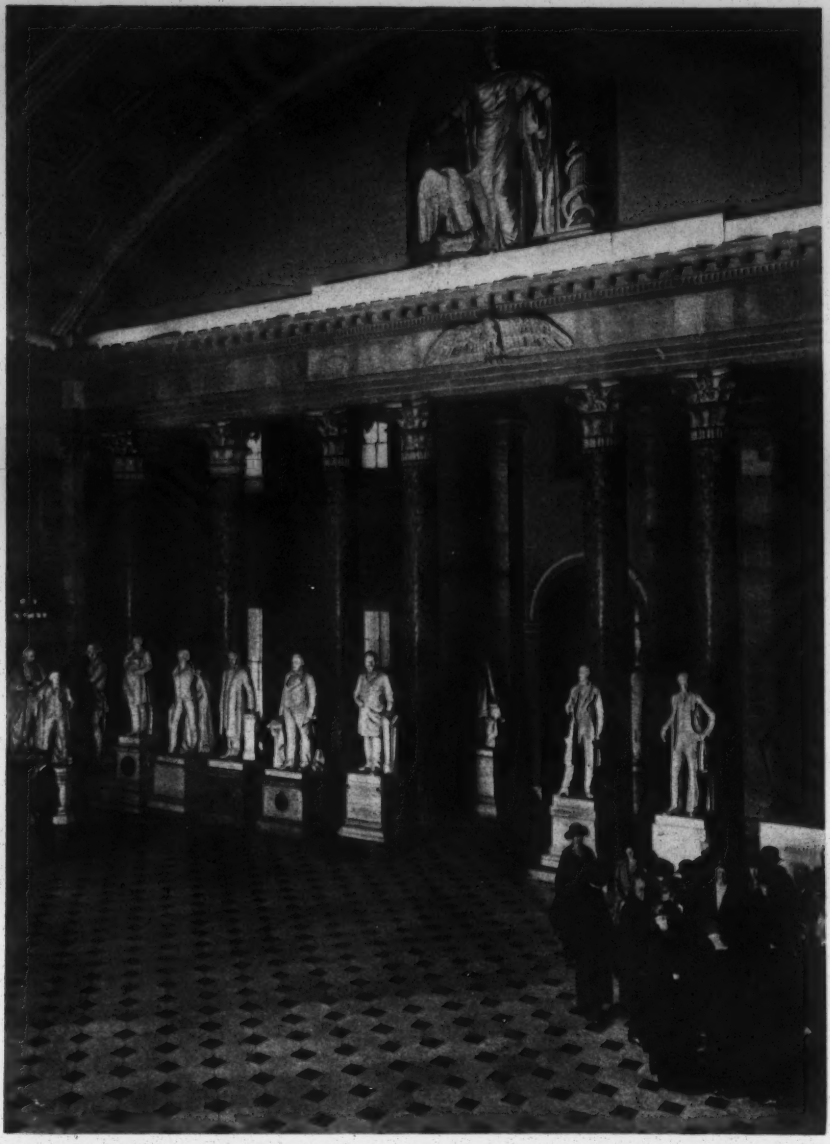
Jubaland is alternately a parched desert and a green pasture. The Juba itself is the only year-round stream, and it rises in Abyssinia and receives practically all its drainage from that country. The region through which the river flows is remarkably level and steamers ascend the stream for 400 miles during all but the lowest water periods.

The Equator crosses the country near the mouth of the Juba, and along the stream's banks are bands of tropical verdure. A short distance from the river the typical Jubaland plains begin, vast level stretches covered with a dense growth of thorn bushes higher than a man's head. In the dry season these bushes are leafless and the ground is dry and dusty. As soon as the rainy season sets in leaves spring out on the thorn bushes while the ground becomes covered with succulent grass.

Somalis Are Born Cattle "Rustlers"

The Somalis, the principal people inhabiting Jubaland, keep extensive herds and drive them into the interior as soon as the grass appears. Scattered among the thorn thickets are numerous water-holes, filled by the rains, around which grazing activities center. Game trails beaten out by antelope, gazelles, giraffes, elephants and other wild creatures, connect the water-holes and are used by the Somalis. The herds of these natives consist of cattle, sheep, goats and camels, the latter for use as burden bearers as well as steeds to transport members of the tribe.

Under the nomadic life which the climate forces on the natives, clashes are inevitable between wandering tribes seeking water and grass. In addition the Somalis are born cattle "rustlers" and take animals from any tribe or individual owners not strong enough to defend their possession. In the same region are a number of Gallas, an inferior people, many of whom are held as slaves by the Somalis.



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SIGHT-SEERS TESTING THE PECULIAR ACOUSTIC PROPERTIES OF THE "WHISPERING GALLERY" OF STATUARY HALL IN THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL

Each State in the Union has the privilege of placing two statues of its distinguished citizens in this hall of fame. The man standing at the left of the picture is a guide who is whispering. As long as he stands on that particular flagstone, his whispering is audible to the group of people at the right; if he moves his position a few inches, he cannot be heard (see Bulletin No. 2).

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How Many Times Is Your State Represented in Washington?

THAT EACH State of the Union erect a permanent memorial and exhibition building is a proposal for the centenary exposition planned for Washington in 1932.

The States are already represented in the Capital in the Senate and House of Representatives and in more odd places than the average tourist can discover, but there are no formal State headquarters.

Somewhere in the Federal reservation a broad avenue honors every State except one. Only native sons of the State of Washington seek vainly for "their" avenue. There is a Washington street, but that does not count, for in the Capital avenues are the macadam patricians and never run on line with the streets. Famous Pennsylvania Avenue runs "west nor'west" from the Capitol toward the White House and all its forty-six brother avenues named for States proclaim their special station by cutting angles among the staid streets which have to hew to north-south or east-west lines.

The Mystery of Pennsylvania Avenue

What secret of diplomacy gave Pennsylvania's name to "The Avenue," as the Capital calls it? That is still secret. The map of L'Enfant, the French engineer and father of city planning in America, names the streets but not the avenues. Some say geography gave it to Pennsylvania. It is the middle avenue of three great parallel boulevards just as Pennsylvania was the middle State of the original thirteen. South of Pennsylvania avenue is Virginia avenue and north of it is Massachusetts avenue. While Pennsylvania avenue is more famous, Massachusetts is more beautiful, for the latter is bordered by handsome buildings and by far more lindens than Unter den Linden, Berlin's famous boulevard.

Many avenues named for southern States are south of the Capitol, where the original planners expected the greatest development. However, like all American cities, Washington has moved with glacier slowness to a new axis. Now the busiest avenues are those northwest of the White House, carrying the names of the New England States; Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. States entering the Union more recently are honored by avenues on the fringe of the District. Florida avenue is an exception to all these highway rules; it was once Boundary avenue, postroad to Baltimore, and the curving limit of the original city.

A Puzzle For Arithmetic Sharks

Mathematical sharks can have a feast on the enigma presented by State names on the Lincoln Memorial. Two files of State names crown the classic temple; the lower lists the thirty-six States of the Union at the time of Lincoln's death, the upper lists the forty-eight States of the United States today. In both tabulations the States appear in the order of admittance to the Union. The short list begins at the upper left-hand corner of the east facade. At what corner of what side must the long list begin in order that no one name shall appear twice on the same face of the memorial?

The Somalis are Mohammedans and follow the outward forms of their religion most zealously. They dress in white, togalike robes. The dusky, white-clad Somali warrior, at rest, cranelike on one leg, leaning against his long, broad-bladed spear, makes one of the most picturesque sights in Africa.

It Takes Courage to Be a Somali's Guest

One custom of the Somalis not very popular with white travelers is their method of "honoring" a visitor of importance by a war dance. The visitor, placed in a front seat, soon finds that the dance consists chiefly in the warriors rushing at him and brandishing their spears within a few inches of his face. If he winces or fails to show studied coolness he loses their respect.

Another custom which fails to reassure a white man traveling without a heavy guard through the Somali country, is the recognized method by which the young Somali men "win their spurs" of warriorhood. The coveted emblems, a feathered headdress and a black-shafted spear, are given only to young braves who have killed an enemy. Since Somali are likely to consider any one an "enemy" who is not of their tribe, young men seeking to "qualify" have been known to go on still hunts for non-Somali natives and even white men to murder them in cold blood.

Bulletin No. 1, November 2, 1925.

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ON A KENYA COLONY COFFEE PLANTATION

Coffee is a coming crop in Africa, the continent of its origin. Arabs are supposed to have found the variety now in principal use in the Kaffa district of Abyssinia. Other species of wild coffee trees are found in many places in Africa, and beans from some trees have remarkable aroma and flavor. Jubaland, which has been turned over to Italy by Great Britain, borders Kenya Colony on the north (see Bulletin No. 1).

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Tuareg Women Rule Family and Weave Mats

PEACE in Tripoli has brought about the revival of an old industry among the Tuareg tribesmen of the interior. Once again the brilliantly colored rush mats woven by these desert dwellers are finding their way into the market of Misrata on the Mediterranean coast.

These mat makers have developed a society which is strange to occident ideas; with them man is the "mouse" and woman the "lion."

Among the Tripoli Tuaregs it is man who by all the laws of the country has to obey the women. Descent is traced through the mother; woman shows her proud face to all the world, while the man goes veiled. In the presence of a woman of noble birth, men cover their faces and heads altogether. The women give the children what little instruction they have and train them to respect and obey them.

Send Watchmen With Husbands

Bullied and worried by his women-folk, the Tuareg has no liberty at all. All the goods, tents, camels, and clothes are the women's property. The stick he carries and the great wooden box into which he puts what his wife suffers him to have are all the man possesses and all he retains if for some reason his wife chooses to divorce him.

In Ghat, when a man goes out after sunset he is usually followed by a negro servant, sent by his wife to dog his steps, and woe to him if he forgets himself or comes home too late! He will find the door shut and must count himself lucky if he is not put into the street altogether.

The young man who, in spite of all this, wants to marry must pay a heavy sum for the bride, to obtain which he is obliged to look for other means than his usual work of rearing camels or carrying goods for the Arab trader. Thus he is forced into taking part in one of the annual rhazzias.

Women Send Men on Raids

The ladies decide when the right moment has come, and the men sally forth against some luckless caravan or to the rich highlands of Tibesti. These senseless raids have destroyed many a fertile oasis, and have accelerated the final disappearance of trans-Saharan trade.

As in the production of oriental rugs the busiest and most capable mat makers of the Tuaregs are the women. They use a primitive loom with pierced rods of palmwood in which they interweave the fibers of rushes. Mats of the Tuaregs are particularly noted for bright beauty of their colors, which do not fade because the dyes are made from plants and berries as were those of American Indians.

Used in Place of Prayer Rugs

When the mats are completed they are laid in the sun to dry for several days, in order to remove all traces of dampness. Then they are rolled in bundles and brought to the market of Misrata.

Tuareg rush mats are sold chiefly to those in North Africa who cannot

At the end of the Mirror Basin, opposite the Lincoln Memorial, the visitor may again find his State memorialized within the shaft of Washington Monument. Stone blocks inscribed with the names of forty States, some of which were territories at the time the tablets were placed, can be seen as the elevator climbs to the top. To see them in detail one must undertake the Capital's supreme test of youthfulness, climb the monument's 898 steps!

At least once a year the big white inner court of the gray stone Post Office Department building, about midway on Pennsylvania Avenue between the Capitol and the White House, blazes with color contributed by State flags. Since 1908, Flag Day, June 14, has been celebrated annually there by the display of a nearly complete collection of State flags. Governors and private citizens, organizations of postmasters and postal employes, a chapter of the D. A. R., and numerous other societies and individuals have added to the Department's set. Only the flags of Kansas, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota and Wyoming are now missing.

America's English Flags

The Hawaiian flag's arrival at the Post Office Department tied together some loose ends of history. On the field of the territorial emblem appears the British design, comprising the Crosses of St. George, St. Andrew and St. Patrick. This was the flag Benjamin Franklin served under as colonial postmaster general. He later became the first postmaster general under the Stars and Stripes. Another English flag in the collection is Maryland's, the brilliant old banner of the Calverts, which that State adopted.

In the Capitol itself, the original House chamber, called the "oven," both for its temperature and shape, has been converted into a Hall of Fame for State heroes. Enough States have filled half or all of their quota of two, to give Statuary Hall a forest of marble figures.

If the Lincoln Memorial offers a mathematical puzzle, Statuary Hall affords an information test. One might spend a profitable hour with a group of friends checking how many can tell why the following men were honored by their States with places in the U. S. Capitol's gallery of fame:

How Many Can You Identify?

Alabama: J. L. M. Curry and Gen. Joseph Wheeler; Arkansas: James P. Clarke and Uriah M. Rose; Connecticut: Roger Sherman and Jonathan Trumbull; Florida: John Gorrie and E. Kirby Smith; Idaho: George L. Shoup; Illinois: James Shields and Frances E. Willard; Indiana: Lew Wallace and Oliver P. Morton; Iowa: James Harlan and Samuel J. Kirkwood; Kansas: George W. Glick and John J. Ingalls; Maine: William King; Maryland: Charles Carroll and John Hanson; Massachusetts: Samuel Adams and John Winthrop; Michigan: Lewis Cass and Zachariah Chandler; Minnesota: Henry M. Rice; Missouri: Thomas H. Benton and Francis P. Blair; New Hampshire: John Stark and Daniel Webster; New Jersey: Richard Stockton and Philip Kearney; New York: Robert R. Livingston and George Clinton; North Carolina; Zebulon B. Vance; Ohio: James A. Garfield and William Allen; Oklahoma: Sequoyah; Pennsylvania: John P. G. Muhlenberg and Robert Fulton; Rhode Island: Nathanael Greene and Roger Williams; South Carolina: John C. Calhoun; Texas: Stephen F. Austin and Samuel Houston; Vermont: Ethan Allen and Jacob Collamer; Virginia: George Washington and Robert E. Lee; West Virginia: John E. Kenna and Francis H. Pierpont; Wisconsin: Father James Marquette.

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Banditry and Other Paradoxes of Corsica

IF ANY inoffensive tourist gets shot in Corsica, blame must fall on the heads of the police, says a public announcement sent to a Marseilles paper by an "honest bandit" of the island.

"The tactics of the new Colonel of Police in disguising his gendarmes may lead to regrettable errors," he warns.

One goes to Corsica expecting to find every bandit a menace. He remains to find the man with the gun the most unromantic of mortals. Melodrama heroes have accomplished more with the glitter of a silver spoon held revolver-wise than the most wicked looking Corsicans attempt when loaded to the belt. Yet personal encounter between natives is still a commonplace.

Bandits But No Thievery

Corsica, where women go safely alone by night and gendarmes travel in pairs by day, where there are hundreds of bridges and no rivers, where everyone expects the visitor to pay verbal tribute to "Kalliste" (Most Beautiful) and few can name the mountains in whose shadow they were born!

Banditry is still a byword and thievery is abhorred. The innkeepers boast of what grand things they would do if there were more tourists, and neglect the few they have. The sun gives the land its charm; and the snow, its beauty and health. The roads are blocked by horses, mules, and donkeys, few of them laden, and the automobile, even for the single traveler, offers the cheapest means of transportation. The perfume of the maquis and the smells of the streets are alike indescribable.

Corsica Is the Land of the Paradox

Submerged by wave after wave of history and conquest, home of a race full of passion but free from low crime, the scented isle south of the Cote d'Azur offers a distinctive reward to those who leave the rush and display of the Continent to visit vendettaland.

Corsica, like every other country, is a land of contrasts. But more than most, it is the land of paradox. Behind the striking beauty of the island, concealed beneath the commonplace exteriors of the people, there is a mystery, a contrary quality which first escapes observation and later intrudes everywhere. Probably nowhere is a generalization more likely to be true and false at the same time.

Animals, made roommates, are treated cruelly, and children, seldom at home, are generally allowed to do as they please.

Farm Mountains Instead of Plains

Life is somber and death is still the supreme event to those whose monotonous days are as tenaciously clung to as in happier and less lovely lands.

The mountain sides are terraced with infinite labor and the most fertile plains are left untilled. The sea is all around and mariners are few. Bad

afford oriental rugs. They are used to decorate the walls and pavements of mosques, baths and private and public buildings. Moslems use them often for prayer rugs when traveling in the desert.

Bulletin No. 3, November 2, 1925.

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TUAREGS IN KUFRA, AN OASIS IN INTERIOR TRIPOLI

The men of this tribe, rather than the women, conceal their faces, and even when they eat do not remove their veils. This feat in feeding is accomplished by the use of specially constructed spoons (see Bulletin No. 3).

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Vale of Kashmir Greets a New Maharaja

LIEUTENANT GENERAL H. H. Maharaja Sir Pratap Singh, G. C. S. I., G. C. I. E., G. B. E., Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir, is dead.

In other words the ruler of the beautiful vale of Kashmir, India's summer resort par excellence, has expired and the residents of this summer garden spot of the high Himalayas are about the business of putting his nephew in his place.

Kashmir is not on the southern slope of the Himalayas. It lies within those towering mountains, actually behind a portion of them.

However, it is a peculiar geological condition, not the steepness of ascent, that makes Kashmir inaccessible by rail.

Travelers to Kashmir Must Dodge Rock Rain

The highway into the celebrated Vale traverses a loose and conglomerate formation, and nearly every rain tumbles isolated boulders and great stone masses into the road. The life toll is heavy on this dangerous roadway, and squads of laborers usually are busy opening passages afresh. The difficulties of maintaining a clear railway track over such an area so far have been too much for engineers.

Visitors now must take a 200-mile journey through the outer Himalayas over the "trick highway" after leaving the railroad station at Rawalpindi. When they arrive the labor of getting there is forgotten in the panorama of a great level valley, its floor a mile above the sea, with profuse vegetation and fruits of the temperate zone, rimmed around with a majestic wall of towering, snow-mantled mountains.

Venice of the Mountains

The major surprise of this altitudinous valley is Srinagar, a Venice of the East. Through the Vale winds the Jhelum River, fed by icy Himalayan springs, occasionally forming beautiful lakes. The "main street" of Srinagar is the river, and facing the river are the palace of the Maharaja, government buildings, and dwellings. On the river itself and the numerous canals that intersect it live 15,000 people in boats.

If one would spend some time in Srinagar he rents a houseboat. His dwelling comes equipped with oarsmen. But he must also engage a kitchen boat, manned by cooks. With such provision the visitor may live comfortably and lazily, moving his abode as whim dictates, with his meals in the making in his wake.

Away from its waterways Srinagar is slum-like, with narrow, dirty and odorous streets. Many of its people are unkempt and beggars abound.

No Longer Weave Shawls That Brought Them Fame

Despite their own appearance the very name of the Valley has become a synonym for personal adornment. The most famous of numerous artistic products were the cashmere shawls so highly prized by smartly dressed women of the Western World two or three generations ago. One favorite type, the

sailors that they are, the Corsicans claim kinship with Columbus, and, indomitable fighters, they ignore Napoleon. Sacred personages, pictured on many walls, are profaned on most male lips.

The donkeys and pigs feed on chestnuts of such quality as few in richer lands could afford, and every third child seems underfed.

But as one looks back on Corsica from the confetti-strewn Corso in Nice, he longs for the simple, unspoiled, paradoxical paradise to the south, so comfortless, yet so compelling in its charm.

Swiss Hotels Bring Tourists

Neglected heretofore, Corsica is coming into vogue. One of the great French railway systems is arranging for motor services in connection with the steamers from Nice and Marseilles, and recently a half dozen simple but clean hotels, under Swiss direction, were being planned, so that even those who insist on standardized travel arrangements might visit most parts of the island.

But to appreciate the Corsican one must know him, and a throbbing motor car which relentlessly puts hills behind and rolls past splendid points of view at 30 miles an hour does not give a chance to know those who do not wear their hearts upon their brown corduroy sleeves, for all their traditional hospitality.

Bulletin No. 4, November 2, 1925.

Form for Renewal of Bulletin Requests

Many requests for the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS were made for the year ending with this issue. If you desire the Bulletins continued kindly notify the Society promptly. The attached form may be used:

School Service Department,
National Geographic Society,
Washington, D. C.

Kindly send.....copies of the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS for the school year beginning with the issue of....., for classroom use, to

Name.....

Address for sending Bulletins.....

City.....State.....

I am a teacher in.....school.....grade.

Enclose 25 cents for each annual subscription.

"ring" shawl, though not transparent, is so finely woven that it may be drawn through a finger ring.

Production of shawls in Kashmir fell off sharply during the last 25 years and is practically nil today. The Franco-Prussian War sealed their doom, and the Indian famine of 1877–79 wrought havoc among the weavers.

The shawls were not made from the wool of sheep, nor do all the animals which supply the raw material live in Kashmir. In everyday parlance the word cashmere is applied to material made from the finest grade of wool of Merino sheep raised in Spain. The material of the cashmere shawls was the fine, short underwool of the shawl-goat which lives, for the most part, in the mountain regions of Tibet.

Bulletin No. 5, November 2, 1925.

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A ROCK TUNNEL ON THE ROAD TO SRINAGAR

The road from Gujerat into the Happy Valley of Kashmir, over the Pir Panjal, has been improved in recent years. Now it is possible to make the 200-mile trip from Rawalpindi on the southern slopes of the Himalayas in two days by motor car (see Bulletin No. 5).